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REVIEWS

The Southern South. By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. New York and London, D. Appleton and Company, 1910.—445 pp.

For Northerners who wish a clear, complete, compendious and unbiased account of the facts and opinions that dominate Southern life today, this is the best book known to the reviewer. *A priori* Professor Hart would hardly have occurred to one as the American scholar most likely to produce such a work. A pre-natal abolitionist, born in the Western Reserve and associated for most of his life with the intellectual ideals of Cambridge, Massachusetts, he would have been presumed to lack at least that sympathy and tolerance that are so indispensable to a fair and fruitful analysis of Southern social conditions. His work manifests, however, precisely these essential elements. The cool emotionless collection and handling of facts by the trained historian is tempered by the large-minded patriot's consciousness of and respect for the feelings that lie behind the facts. Nothing but praise can be awarded to the spirit in which Professor Hart has achieved his task.

The substance of his achievement consists in a description of the social classes and conditions and of the salient factors in the economic development of the typical—the "Southern"—South. The data are taken from familiar statistical sources, familiar literature and a considerable amount of direct personal observation. There is no pretense of any startling discovery. The distinction of the study is in its estimate and interpretation of the well-known. Wealth, industry and education are examined, and the facts and opinions relative to these matters are subjected to temperate and discriminating analysis and criticism. Professor Hart's consideration of these various aspects of Southern life leads straight every time, however, to the one great and overshadowing feature—the race problem. This constitutes the backbone of his study. That such is the case is the strongest testimony to the scientific validity of the volume. There still persists in some Northern circles, among the survivals of ante-bellum abolitionism, the idea that there is no real race problem, that what passes for such a problem is merely the exhibition of total depravity by some Southern whites who sin against the light. If the people who minimize the importance of the race problem ever read Professor Hart's book, longer

adherence to their delusion will be indeed a sinning against the light. Nothing could be more impressive and convincing than the inevitable trend of his discussion, on every topic of Southern life, toward the relation of the races as the controlling factor both in present conditions and in prospects for the future.

Perhaps the most satisfactory evidence of Professor Hart's sanity and poise is that he has no ready-to-wear solution for the ills of the South. Her problem he sums up thus :

How twenty million whites and ten million negroes . . . shall make up a community in which one race shall hold most of the property and all of the government, and the other race shall remain content and industrious ; in which one gets most of the good things of life and the other does most of the disagreeable work ; in which the superior members of the inferior race shall accept all its disadvantages ; in which one race shall always be at the top and the other forever at the bottom ; yet in which there shall be peace and good will. . . . [page 340].

This statement of the case involves certain presumptions that might be controverted. The "good things of life," for example, and "disagreeable work" imply a common standard for the two races. What if one race found the supremely "good" thing in the unmolested possession of a watermelon on the sunny side of a board fence and felt all effort to be "disagreeable," while the other race found "good" only in mastery over inanimate nature and over men and felt keen zest for any effort that promised that end? Without too refined a scrutiny, however, of Professor Hart's summary of the problem, we must admit that it suggests very clearly the scope and difficulties of the issues involved. As to a solution, he rejects "every positive and quick-acting remedy," and recommends only that which is no remedy, "patience" (page 393). There must be, he believes, increasing effort for the moral and material uplifting of both races, but no one can say what is going to be the outcome. This is not a pleasant conclusion, but it is one that is appallingly near the truth.

One of the most satisfactory features of Professor Hart's study is his unqualified condemnation of miscegenation. It is not rare to hear in the North a cynical pseudo-philosophy that says : The mixture is bound to come ; no blame to the Southern whites for opposing it, but there is no use in their struggle ; nature will beat them. With such a spirit Professor Hart has no sympathy. He is no less positive than the most ardent Southerner that race purity must be preserved, and he approves strong measures to secure this end. With obvious sarcasm he suggests

that the laws against inter-race illicit intercourse be as zealously enforced as the Jim Crow laws. The practices that keep up the mulatto element he very properly condemns without reserve. He does not say, though it is perhaps implied in his text, that illicit amalgamation will come to an end only when the negro woman receives the advances of a white man with the same feelings with which the white woman now receives the advances of a negro man. The time that must elapse before this situation shall prevail is probably the best attainable measure of the nearness of a "solution" of the race problem.

WM. A. DUNNING.

A Documentary History of American Industrial Society.

Edited by JOHN R. COMMONS, ULRICH B. PHILLIPS, EUGENE A. GILMORE, HELEN L. SUMNER and JOHN B. ANDREWS, with preface by RICHARD T. ELY and introduction by JOHN B. CLARK. Volumes I, II: *Plantation and Frontier, 1649-1863*. Selected, collated and edited with an introduction by ULRICH B. PHILLIPS. Cleveland, Ohio, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1910.—375, 379 pp.

Among the phases of the development of the United States hitherto neglected by historians none better illustrates our chief contribution to the welfare of mankind than the story of the working class. In a country founded by seekers after new homes in a new world, evoking the energies required for the struggle with the wilderness and inspiring the ideals that an exploitation of natural resources calls forth, the origin, training and ambition of the American people have produced the man of business as its essential type. For two reasons that are easy to understand our historians have not acknowledged this fact. Yielding obedience to conventional standards of what is worth while in history, they have written much about the exceptional that may conform to accepted ideas of the heroic and picturesque and little about the characteristic that may suggest the commonplace and obscure, or they have been restrained by the lack of accessible sources of information on matters that savor not of politics and war. Any investigator, indeed, might well feel appalled at the thought of looking for records long considered unworthy of deposit in public archives or at least unfitted for scientific use.

It is just this sort of ignored and unknown material, illustrative of agriculture, industry, commerce and labor in general, which the American Bureau of Industrial Research has undertaken to provide since its organization in 1904. Part of the huge collection of documents, pamphlets and other records that it has gathered for its proposed history of